

Message Text

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S/PRS - MR. HARE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

USMISSION BERLIN PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 194251

GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, GE

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF US-GDR RELATIONS

EXCERPTS DEPARTMENT SEPTEMBER 4 NEWS BRIEFING FOLLOW:

QUOTE: MR. KING: BEFORE WE GET INTO THE BRIEFING HERE,
I WANT TO BRING TO ALL OF YOUR ATTENTION THE PRESS RELEASE
CONTAINING THE COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE GDR. AND IN THIS CONNECTION
I WISH TO STATE THAT IN ESTABLISHING RELATIONS THE UNITED
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STATES GOVERNMENT PROCEEDS ON THE BASIS THAT THE LOCATION
AND FUNCTIONING OF AN AMERICAN EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN,
WHERE IT WILL BE CONVENIENT TO THE GOVERNMENT OFFICES WITH
WHICH IT WILL DEAL, WILL NOT AFFECT THE SPECIAL LEGAL

STATUS OF THE BERLIN AREA.

NOW, AS I TOLD YOU YESTERDAY, I HAD ASKED MR. SCOTT GEORGE TO COME DOWN AND BRIEF YOU ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. HE'S HERE NOW, AND WE MIGHT AS WELL JUST TURN OVER THE PODIUM TO HIM. HIS REMARKS WILL BE ON BACKGROUND -- WHICH IS TO SAY THAT YOU MAY QUOTE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS IN PARAPHRASE -- THAT IS TO SAY, WITHOUT DIRECT QUOTATION MARKS BEING USED. AND WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, I'LL ASK MR. GEORGE TO STEP UP HERE.

Q: WHAT IS HIS TITLE?

A: THE TITLE IS DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF CENTRAL EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

I DON'T HAVE ANY REMARKS. THIS STORY HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR SOME TIME, AND THERE HAVE BEEN A GOOD MANY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS HERE BEFORE. I THINK PROBABLY THE BEST THING WOULD BE JUST TO PUT MYSELF AT YOUR MERCY AND ANYTHING --

Q: WHAT IS YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE SPECIAL LEGAL STATUS OF BERLIN THEN?

A: IT'S A RATHER LONG STORY. THE SPECIAL LEGAL STATUS OF BERLIN MEANS EVERYTHING THAT HAS BEEN DONE BY OURSELVES ABOUT BERLIN OVER THE WHOLE PERIOD SINCE THE END OF THE WAR -- THE FACT THAT BERLIN IS A VERY SPECIAL PLACE IN WHICH THE FOUR POWERS -- THE U.S., U.K., FRANCE, AND SOVIET UNION -- HAVE A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY, AND IT IS HANDLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENTS THAT WE HAVE MADE.

IN OTHER WORDS, ALL I'M SAYING IS THE FACT THAT WE ARE NOW ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH THE GDR DOES NOT CHANGE THE BERLIN SITUATION WHICH HAS OBTAINED AND STILL DOES OBTAIN.
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Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA -- ANY ESTIMATE OF THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN THE CLAIMS AGAINST THE EAST GERMAN GOVERNMENT, EITHER BY VICTIMS OF NAZIISM OR AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN?

A: NOT REALLY. I CAN'T EVEN GIVE A BALL PARK FIGURE -- THE REASON BEING THAT ONCE WE HAVE NOW AGREED THAT THERE WILL BE NEGOTIATIONS, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE FOREIGN CLAIMS COMMISSION ADVERTISES THE FACT, ASKS THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE WHAT APPEAR TO BE JUST CLAIMS TO SUBMIT THE CLAIMS. THEN THERE'S A WHOLE PROCESS OF SORTING THESE OUT, EVALUATING THEM, AND PUTTING THE WHOLE THING TOGETHER INTO A PACKAGE. AND THAT'S A RATHER TIME-CONSUMING PROCESS

AND WE DON'T EVEN HAVE A BALL PARK FIGURE AT THIS TIME.

Q: WILL THE UNITED STATES, REOCCUPY IT'S OLD EMBASSY FROM BEFORE THE WAR THAT WAS IN BERLIN OR WILL YOU GO TO NEW QUARTERS?

A: IT'S AN INTERESTING QUESTION. THERE'S NOTHING LEFT BUT THE BASEMENT, UNFORTUNATELY, SO THE OLD EMBASSY IS A PLOT OF BARE GROUND WITH BARBED WIRE AROUND IT. WE HAVE

RE-ACQUIRED TITLE TO IT, I SHOULD SAY, AS OF 10 OR 15 MINUTES AGO. THE GDR AGREES THAT IT IS OUR PROPERTY. AND AS TO WHAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO WITH IT, THAT'S MORE DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE.

WE WILL BE ABLE TO USE IT, UTILIZE IT. AT PRESENT, CONSTRUCTION THERE IS NOT PERMITTED, BECAUSE IT'S JUST UP AGAINST THE WALL -- LITERALLY, RIGHT WHERE THE BRANDENBURGER TOR IS. WE OWN IT. THEY DON'T QUESTION OUR OWNERSHIP. BUT WHAT WE DO WITH IT WILL HAVE TO BE SORTED OUT IN THE FUTURE.

Q: SO WHERE WILL YOU BE WORKING THEN? WHERE WILL YOU BE LOCATED?

A: THE GDR HAS OFFERED US A BUILDING CALLED THE HAUS DES HANDWERKS, WHICH WILL REQUIRE SOME REHABILITATION AND UNCLASSIFIED

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RENOVATION. AND WE WILL EVENTUALLY BE THERE. IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO DO THE NECESSARY CHANGEOVER WORK. IN THE INTERIM, THEY'VE OFFERED US A TEMPORARY CHANCERY BUILDING. I'M NOT SURE WHAT THE LOCATION IS, BUT IT WOULD BE FOR TEMPORARY PURPOSES PENDING THE COMPLETION OF THE WORK ON THE MORE PERMANENT BUILDING.

Q: HOW ABOUT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE?

A: WE HAVE AN AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, WHICH IS SOMEWHAT IN THE SAME SITUATION. THAT IS IT WILL REQUIRE RENOVATION AND REHABILITATION.

Q: COULD YOU TELL US WHAT THE EAST GERMAN SITUATION IS HERE?

A: WELL, THE SYSTEM IS, AS YOU KNOW, QUITE DIFFERENT HERE. THEY ARE LOOKING FOR PROPERTY HERE. THEY ARE STILL LOOKING. THEY HAVE SOME POSSIBILITIES, BUT THEY HAVEN'T MADE A DECISION AS FAR AS I'M AWARE.

Q: COULD YOU TELL US WHETHER IN THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATION LEADING UP TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS

THE STATUS OF THE WALL ITSELF WAS DISCUSSED?

A: NO. THE STATUS OF THE WALL WAS NOT DISCUSSED.

Q: DO YOU SEE THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT WILL HAVE ANY EFFECT UPON THE WALL OR TRANSIT THROUGH IT?

A: NO DIRECT RELATIONSHIP. I WOULD HOPE THAT THIS STEP WILL LEAD TO, OF COURSE, EVENTUALLY, FURTHER STEPS OF NORMALIZATION -- BUT NO DIRECT RELATIONSHIP.

Q: IS THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE THE SAME ONE THAT WAS THERE PREVIOUSLY OR IS THIS A DIFFERENT ONE?

A: IT'S A DIFFERENT ONE. IT HAS NO CONNECTION WITH ANY PREVIOUS RESIDENCE.

Q: AMONG FURTHER STEPS TO NORMALIZATION, COULD YOU TELL UNCLASSIFIED

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US WHAT SOME OF THOSE MIGHT BE IN TERMS OF TRADE-CULTURAL MISSIONS, OF EASED ACCESS FOR U.S. CITIZENS TO THE GDR -- AND VICE VERSA?

A: WE WOULD EXPECT TO BE WORKING ON THIS KIND OF RELATIONS, ONCE WE GET IN OPERATION THERE. FOR ONE THING, I THINK THAT PROBABLY THE GDR WILL BE INTERESTED IN CONCLUDING A TRADE AGREEMENT. THAT'S THE NORMAL PATTERN IN SITUATIONS LIKE THIS. WE HAVEN'T DISCUSSED THIS AS YET, EXCEPT IN VERY GENERAL TERMS. THEY ARE INTERESTED AND HAVE TOLD US -- AND WE HAVE AGREED, AS A MATTER OF FACT -- TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITHIN A YEAR FROM TODAY'S DATE ON THE OPENING OF ADDITIONAL OFFICES IN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THAT WOULD BE CONSULTATES OR TRADE MISSIONS OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER. WE ARE BOTH INTERESTED IN THAT POSSIBILITY, BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY PRECISE IDEAS RIGHT NOW.

WE WILL BE DISCUSSING WITH THEM ALSO CULTURAL EXCHANGES -- EXCHANGES OF ARTISTS AND OTHER SORTS OF EXCHANGES -- ONCE WE GET INTO OPERATION. SO WE PLAN TO PROCEED TO WORK OUT AND FLESH OUT THIS KIND OF AREA OF RELATIONSHIP AS TIME GOES ON.

Q: JUST TO FINISH THIS QUESTION -- IS THIS NOTED IN A KIND OF -- I MEAN, A PIECE OF WRITING -- THESE INTENTIONS?

A: YES. THE PIECE OF WRITING THAT NOTES THIS IS JUST A RESUME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS OR DISCUSSIONS THAT WE'VE HELD. THIS WAS THE THING THAT SOME OF YOU SAW DR. SUESS AND MR. HARTMAN SIGN THIS MORNING. IT'S A RUNDOWN OF THE

THINGS THAT WE HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT ON. AND ONE OF THE AGREEMENTS IS THAT WE'LL WORK ON IMPROVING THESE AREAS OF RELATIONSHIP, AND WE AGREE TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS ABOUT OPENING OTHER OFFICES WITHIN A YEAR FROM THE PRESENT DATE.

Q: WAS THIS SIGNED IN ADDITION TO THE MINUTE?

A: NO. IT WAS JUST ONE THING. THIS ONE THING
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RECORDS -- IT'S SORT OF A NEGOTIATING MINUTE OF WHAT WAS AGREED DURING ABOUT 10 DAYS OF DISCUSSIONS WE HAD WITH THEM BACK IN JULY.

Q: WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT A TRADE AGREEMENT, WOULD THIS PRESUPPOSE THAT IF THE TRADE BILL IS PASSED -- WHICH WOULD PROVIDE MFN FOR THOSE COUNTRIES WITH WHICH WE HAVE TRADE AGREEMENTS -- THAT EAST GERMANY ANTICIPATES HAVING MFN?

A: I THINK IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT EAST GERMANY CERTAINLY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MFN. WE HAVEN'T DISCUSSED IT IN ANY DETAIL AT ALL. I WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT IF WE DO NEGOTIATE A TRADE AGREEMENT THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THIS INCLUDED AS A COMPONENT AND WE'LL HAVE TO ADDRESS THAT PROBLEM WHEN IT COMES UP. I WOULD BE VERY MUCH SURPRISED IF THEY WOULD NOT LIKE TO HAVE MFN TREATMENT.

Q: COULD WE GO INTO A LITTLE MORE DETAIL ON THIS MATTER OF CLAIMS. DOES THIS APPLY ONLY TO AMERICAN CITIZENS?

A: YES. I THINK THE MOST USEFUL THING I COULD DO IS ADDRESS THE WHOLE CLAIMS QUESTION A BIT, BECAUSE IT DOES GET SOMEWHAT CONFUSED.

IN THE AREA OF WHAT ONE MIGHT CALL "TRADITIONAL KIND OF STANDARD CLAIMS" -- THAT IS, STANDARD CLAIMS WHICH AMERICAN CITIZENS OR THIS GOVERNMENT OR ANY ENTITY -- AN AMERICAN ENTITY -- HAS AGAINST THE GDR FOR PROPERTIES TAKEN OR SOME SPECIFIC ACT OF PROPERTY LOSS OR OTHER SORT OF CLAIMABLE MATTER, IT IS THIS KIND OF CLAIM WHICH THE FOREIGN CLAIMS COMMISSION ADDRESSES BY ITS ADVERTISEMENT. IT COLLECTS ALL THESE AND PUTS THEM TOGETHER INTO A PACKAGE, WHICH IS THEN NEGOTIATED WITH THE OTHER GOVERNMENT.

THE OTHER AREA OF CLAIMS -- WHICH IS MUCH LESS WELL DEFINED AND MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO GET HOLD OF -- IS THE CLAIMS OF VICTIMS OF NAZI PERSECUTION BECAUSE THIS, OBVIOUSLY, IS A MUCH LESS CLEAR-CUT AND PINDOWNABLE KIND OF CATEGORY OF CLAIMS. AND IT IS THIS AREA OF CLAIMS

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WHICH WE SPENT MOST OF THE TIME DISCUSSING WITH THE GDR DELEGATION BACK IN JULY.

I MIGHT SAY ON THE FIRST SORT OF STANDARD CLAIMS, THERE'S NO PROBLEM WHATEVER. THEY WILL ENTERTAIN THOSE CLAIMS, DISCUSS THEM, NEGOTIATE THEM. NO DOUBT THEY WILL NOT AGREE WITH EVERYTHING WE PUT FORWARD BUT WILL NEGOTIATE THOSE IN THE STANDARD, NORMAL WAY THAT ANY KIND OF CLAIMS ARE CONSIDERED.

THE QUESTION OF CLAIMS OF VICTIMS OF NAZI PERSECUTION IS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO GET HOLD OF. WE SPENT REALLY THE GREATER PART OF THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM ON JUST DISCUSSING THE CONCEPT OF THAT SORT OF CLAIM. THE GDR POSITION WAS THAT THEY HAD NO RESPONSIBILITY WHATEVER FOR THAT SORT OF CLAIM -- THAT THEY THEMSELVES WERE VICTIMS OF NAZISM -- THAT THE GDR IS A NEW STATE WITH NO RELATIONSHIP TO THE THIRD REICH WHATEVER -- THAT THEY HAVE PAID REPARATIONS, AS REQUIRED BY THE POTSDAM AGREEMENT AND THAT THEY HAVE WIPED THE SLATE CLEAN.

OUR POSITION ON THIS WAS THAT THE ENORMITY OF THESE CRIMES AGAINST VICTIMS OF NAZI PERSECUTION IS SO GREAT -- THE POLITICAL ELEMENT TO IT IN THIS COUNTRY IS SO GREAT BECAUSE OF THE ENORMITY OF THE CRIMES -- THAT A REFUSAL BY THEM EVEN TO CONSIDER THIS AS A PROBLEM SIMPLY WOULD NOT WASH IN THIS COUNTRY.

I THINK THAT THEY ACCEPT THAT FACT THAT IT WON'T WASH IN THIS COUNTRY. HOW THEY WILL HANDLE IT, WHAT THEY WILL DO, THE DEGREE TO WHICH THEY MAY MEET THE PROBLEM, IS YET TO BE NEGOTIATED. BUT THE RESULT OF THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSIONS WAS SUCH AS WOULD LEAVE US TO BELIEVE THAT THEY RECOGNIZE IT AS A GENUINE PROBLEM WHICH NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED.

Q: DID YOU TALK ABOUT THIS RELATING TO AMERICAN CITIZENS?

A: NO, WE DID NOT TALK ABOUT IT SOLELY WITH RESPECT TO AMERICAN CITIZENS. THIS IS WHAT MAKES IT A VERY DIFFICULT PROBLEM. OBVIOUSLY, OUR FIRST RESPONSIBILITY -- I
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SUPPOSE, OUR LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY -- IS SOLELY TO AMERICAN CITIZENS.

AS I SAY, IT IS SUCH AN ENORMOUS CRIME THAT WE FEEL THAT TO THE EXTENT IT IS POSSIBLE WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE JUSTICE

DONE TO ALL VICTIMS OF NAZIISM -- NO MATTER WHAT THEY ARE
OR WHERE THEY ARE.

Q: IS THERE ANY ESTIMATE AT ALL OF THE AMOUNTS FOR THE
STANDARD CLAIMS?

A: NO, THERE ARE NO ESTIMATES OF EITHER AMOUNTS WHATEVER,
EITHER STANDARD CLAIMS OR THIS PARTICULAR CATEGORY.

Q: DOES THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SEE ANY CONNECTION
BETWEEN THIS SECOND CATEGORY OF CLAIMS, OR EVEN THE FIRST
CATEGORY, WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRADE AGREEMENT?

A: NO, I DON'T THINK -- AS FAR AS THE FIRST CATEGORY,
THE STANDARD CLAIMS, ARE CONCERNED, I WOULD ANTICIPATE
THAT THIS WILL PROCEED AND IT'S GOING TO BE SLOW. I
WOULD THINK IT WOULD TAKE SOME MONTHS OR MAYBE A YEAR TO
GET TOGETHER THE NECESSARY FIGURES.

AS FAR AS THE SECOND CATEGORY, THE QUESTION OF JEWISH,
MOSTLY JEWISH VICTIMS, NOT SOLELY JEWISH VICTIMS, BUT
VICTIMS OF NAZI PERSECUTION, THERE IS A CONNECTION BETWEEN
THIS AND EVERYTHING IN A SENSE. WE DID NOT TRY TO DEBATE
THE LEGALITIES OF THIS OR THE POLITICAL OVERT CONNECTION.
WE TOLD THE EAST GERMANS THERE WAS SUCH STRONG FEELING
IN THIS COUNTRY ABOUT THIS PROBLEM THAT IT WOULD AFFECT
ANY AND ALL ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONS. AND I SUPPOSE
THAT'S THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION -- YES, IT WOULD AFFECT.
WHAT THEY CHOOSE TO DO ABOUT THIS ONE WILL HAVE AN EFFECT
ON EVERYTHING.

Q: WHO WILL NEGOTIATE?

A: ONCE THE GDR DELEGATION, IN EFFECT, SAID, "ALL RIGHT,
WE HEAR WHAT YOU ARE SAYING, WE RECOGNIZE THERE IS A
PROBLEM HERE THAT WE'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH," ONCE WE GOT
TO THAT POINT WE URGED THEM STRONGLY TO DEAL DIRECTLY
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WITH THE CONFERENCE ON JEWISH MATERIAL CLAIMS AGAINST
GERMANY, BECAUSE THAT IS AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED
ORGANIZATION EMBRACING THE WHOLE GAMUT OF JEWISH
ORGANIZATIONS IN THIS COUNTRY AND ABROAD AND SPEAKING SO
FAR AS ANY GROUP CAN, THAT I KNOW OF, FOR THE WHOLE GROUP
OF THOSE VICTIMS OF NAZI PERSECUTION THAT WE'RE TALKING
ABOUT. THIS GROUP IS THE GROUP WHICH HAS DEALT WITH THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. AND WE SAID, "IDEALLY, SINCE

THESE PEOPLE HAVE ALL THE FACTS AND KNOW ALL THE THINGS,
THEY ARE RECOGNIZED AS VERY REPUTABLE ANYWHERE BY ANYBODY,
DEAL WITH THEM, THAT'S THE SIMPLEST AND BEST WAY TO DO IT,
WORK OUT SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY."

THEY DID NOT AGREE TO THAT. THEY SAID THEIR GOVERNMENT COULD NOT DEAL WITH A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION. THEY DID, HOWEVER, AGREE THAT THEY WOULD PERMIT A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION WITHIN THE GDR, A SOMEWHAT ANALOGOUS KIND OF ORGANIZATION, SOMETHING CALLED THE "COMMITTEE OF ANTI-FASCIST RESISTANCE FIGHTERS" -- THEY WOULD NOT ONLY PERMIT BUT ASK THIS GROUP TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CONFERENCE ON JEWISH MATERIAL CLAIMS TO SEE IF SOME SORT OF SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM MIGHT BE FOUND. AND AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, ON THE GDR SIDE THIS PRIVATE GROUP WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH THE CONFERENCE, WILL MAKE A REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GDR AUTHORITIES, AND THEN IT'S UP TO THEM TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH THE REPORT. THEY DID NOT MAKE ANY COMMITMENT ABOUT WHAT THEY WOULD DO, BUT THEY DID AGREE TO FOLLOW THIS COURSE.

Q: TO FOLLOW THAT UP, DOES THAT MEAN THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT THEN BECOMES ABSOLVED OF ALL RESPONSIBILITY TO PURSUE THIS MATTER?

A: NO, IT DOES NOT BECAUSE THESE TALKS WHICH WE WOULD THINK WOULD BE THE BEST, SIMPLEST, MOST EFFICIENT WAY TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM, OF COURSE, MAY NOT BE SUCCESSFUL. NO ONE CAN PREDICT THAT. WE, THEREFORE, MADE CLEAR TO THE GDR THAT IN THE CLAIMS NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH THEY AGREE SHALL BE HELD AFTER ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS, THAT ON THE AGENDA EITHER SIDE IS FREE TO BRING UP WHAT-UNCLASSIFIED

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EVER IT MAY WISH. THAT'S A SORT OF STANDARD THING FOR ANY CLAIMS TALKS. WE MADE CLEAR TO THEM THAT IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS THE U.S. SIDE WILL BE FREE TO AND WILL BRING UP, IF WARRANTED, THE QUESTION OF PROPERTY AND OTHER LOSSES INCURRED BEFORE 1945, INCLUDING LOSSES OF VICTIMS OF NAZI PERSECUTION.

SO THAT WHAT WE ARE DOING REALLY IS TRYING TO FOLLOW FIRST WITH PRIVATE TALKS BUT RESERVING AND MAKING CLEAR TO THE GDR THAT THIS GOVERNMENT MAY ADDRESS -- WILL BE FREE TO AND MAY CHOOSE TO BRING UP THE QUESTION WITH THEM IN A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT SENSE DURING THE CLAIMS NEGOTIATIONS.

NOW, THEY ARE AWARE OF THIS. THEY ACCEPT THE FACT THAT THIS IS ON THE AGENDA OR MAY BE ON THE AGENDA IF WE WISH TO PUT IT ON. AND I WOULD NOT WANT TO DECEIVE ANYBODY. THEY DO NOT COMMIT THEMSELVES AS TO WHAT THEY WILL DO ABOUT IT. THEY DO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO NEGOTIATE THE SUBJECT WITH US AS A GOVERNMENT IF THIS SHOULD WORK OUT THIS WAY.

Q: DOES THIS MEAN THAT ALL THOSE VICTIMS OF NAZI PER-

SECUTION WHO ARE NOT AMERICAN WOULD HAVE TO FILE THEIR CLAIMS THROUGH THE CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK? THE CONFERENCE WOULD TAKE THIS UP FIRST, AND THEN DEAL WITH THE GERMANS? OR HOW WOULD THIS WORK?

A: I REALLY SHOULDN'T SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE CONFERENCE. BUT AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THEY DON'T TRY TO ATTEMPT TO ADDRESS SINGLE CLAIMS. IT IS JUST TOO HOPELESS, TOO LONG AGO, TOO COMPLICATED, TOO UNPROVABLE, TOO EVERYTHING. WHAT THEY DO IS TO TRY TO COME UP WITH SOME GLOBAL FIGURE, WHICH IS SOME BALL PARK FIGURE OF THE AMOUNT THAT MIGHT, OR SOME AMOUNT THAT MIGHT BE MADE AVAILABLE ON A LUMP-SUM BASIS TO BE PARCELLED OUT TO THE SURVIVING VICTIMS OR I SUPPOSE THEIR HEIRS, I'M NOT SURE. BUT IT'S NOT AN INDIVIDUAL CLAIMS BASIS THING.

Q: YOU SAID THAT WITHIN A YEAR YOU AGREED TO DISCUSS CULTURAL, TRADE, AND OTHER MATTERS. WHAT IS THE TIMING ON THE CLAIMS DISCUSSIONS?
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A: THE ONE YEAR -- LET ME MAKE CLEAR. I DID NOT MAKE THAT CLEAR. THE ONE YEAR IS THAT WE AGREE TO DISCUSS WITHIN A YEAR THE SETTING UP OF ADDITIONAL OFFICES. WE WILL PROBABLY DO OTHER THINGS BEFORE THAT. THAT IS, START TALKING ABOUT CULTURAL EXCHANGES, PERHAPS A TRADE AGREEMENT. THERE IS NO TIME LIMIT OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

Q: BUT IS THERE A TIME PERIOD AT ALL?

A: ON THE CLAIMS THERE IS NOT. THE GDR AGREED THAT THEIR -- SHALL WE SAY -- DESIGNATED OR SELECTED PRIVATE ORGANIZATION WOULD BE WILLING AS SOON AS WE ESTABLISH RELATIONS TO ENTER INTO TALKS WITH THE CONFERENCE. SO I AM ASSUMING THAT THOSE TALKS MAY BEGIN VERY SHORTLY.

Q: WHAT HAPPENS TO EVENTUAL CLAIMS OF NON-JEWISH PERSECUTEES, VICTIMS OF NAZISM?

A: I'LL HAVE TO JUST SAY I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT. I THINK WE ARE CONCERNED, OF COURSE, NOT SOLELY WITH JEWISH VICTIMS. IT IS JUST THAT MOST VICTIMS WERE JEWISH. NOW, HOW THE NON-JEWISH VICTIMS OF THIS KIND ARE DEALT WITH I JUST DON'T KNOW.

Q: COULD YOU TAKE THAT QUESTION?

A: I'LL TAKE THAT QUESTION, CERTAINLY.

Q: COULD YOU TELL US WHETHER OR NOT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT IS INVOLVED IN ANY WAY WITH THIS CLAIMS SITUATION SINCE IT WAS INVOLVED WITH WEST GERMANY?

A: THE ANSWER THERE IS NO, WE ARE NOT.

Q: IN A LEGAL SENSE GERMANY DOES STILL EXIST UNDER FOUR-POWER JURISDICTION AS A WHOLE. IF NOW A POLITICAL MATTER COMESUP, WOULD THE AMBASSADOR IN BONN OR IN EAST BERLIN OR BOTH EXERCISE THE FUNCTION IN THIS FIELD?

A: WELL, I SUPPOSE THAT QUESTION IS SOMEWHAT ANSWERED
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BY THIS LITTLE DISCLAIMER WHICH MR. KING READ, THAT THIS ACT OF ESTABLISHING RELATIONS IN NO WAY AFFECTS THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE BERLIN AREA.

AND SPECIFICALLY, THE AMBASSADOR TO THE GDR WILL DEAL WITH THE GDR ON MATTERS ONLY OF BILATERAL CONCERN TO THE TWO COUNTRIES; THAT IS, TRADE RELATIONS, FOR EXAMPLE, BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE GDR, CULTURAL RELATIONSHIPS, ANYTHING WHICH AFFECTS OUR TWO COUNTRIES ONLY. IF IT IS A BERLIN MATTER, FOR EXAMPLE, WE WOULD NOT BE DISCUSSING IT WITH THE GDR NEXT WEEK ANY MORE THAN WE WOULD LAST WEEK. IN OTHER WORDS, THERE IS NO CHANGE WHATEVER. THE MATTERS INVOLVING BERLIN -- TO TAKE THE SHORTHAND PHRASE -- WE TALK TO THE SOVIETS ABOUT, NOT THE GDR.

Q: HAS AN AGREEMENT BEEN SOUGHT BY THE GDR FOR AN AMBASSADOR?

A: WELL, I DON'T THINK I BETTER GO INTO AMBASSADORS ON EITHER END. IT'S A WHITE HOUSE PREROGATIVE FROM OUR SIDE, AND, IN FACT, FROM BOTH SIDES FOR THAT MATTER. I WOULD EXPECT SOMETHING TO HAPPEN REASONABLY SOON ON AMBASSADORS, YES, BUT I CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER THAN THAT.

Q: I WOULD LIKE TO RETURN TO THE MFN QUESTION. THE JACKSON AMENDMENT AS PRESENTLY CAST IN THE TRADE BILL WOULD APPEAR TO APPLY TO GDR WITH RESPECT TO FREE EMIGRATION. YOU SAID THE WALL WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY THIS. WAS THIS QUESTION RAISED.

A: IT MAY WELL APPLY, BUT IT WAS NOT RAISED, AND WE'LL JUST HAVE TO STUDY THAT. IF THEY SEEK MFN, WE'LL HAVE TO LOOK AT THAT AS WELL AS EVERYTHING ELSE.

Q: COULD YOU EXPLAIN A LITTLE FURTHER ABOUT THE POSITION OF ISRAEL IN THIS? AS ISRAEL WAS INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON WEST GERMANY, WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND HERE?

HOW WAS IT THAT IT WAS INVOLVED WITH WEST GERMANY AND WEST GERMANY PAID CLAIMS TOTALLY SOMETHING LIKE \$800 MILLION TO ISRAEL AND EAST GERMANY IS NOT? WHAT IS THE
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BACKGROUND ON ALL THIS? AND WAS IT RAISED AT THE
NEGOTIATIONS?

A: NO, IT WAS NOT RAISED, ISRAEL WASN'T RAISED IN ANY
RESPECT DURING THESE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GDR. I
CAN'T SAY REALLY ANYTHING. THE AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN
ISRAEL AND WEST GERMANY -- I'M REACHING BACK IN JUST VAGUE
RECOLLECTION -- I THINK WAS IN 1952. WEST GERMANY AGREED
TO PAY TO ISRAEL OVER A PERIOD OF, I THINK, TWELVE YEARS
RATHER SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS. I FORGET WHAT --\$72 MILLION
A YEAR OR SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

I BELIEVE THE QUESTION OF PAYMENTS FROM THE GDR TO ISRAEL
SIMPLY HAS NOT ARISEN FROM EITHER SIDE. THE ISRAELIS,
SO FAR AS I'M AWARE, HAVE NO EXPECTATION OF SUCH PAYMENTS;
AND THE EAST GERMANS CERTAINLY HAVE NO EXPECTATIONS OF
MAKING THEM. SO IT'S JUST A NON-QUESTION SO FAR AS I'M
AWARE.

MR. KING: THANK YOU, SCOTT. FOR THE LATECOMERS, INCLUDING
THAT FELLOW THERE, THE RULE ON MR. GEORGE'S COLLOQUY WITH
YOU IS BACKGROUND. UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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PARIS
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